GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4210
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN REMOTE AREAS
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges of MTNL and BSNL opened in the remote areas of the country in the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to grant any facilities/concessions to persons belonging to SC/ST category residing in the remote rural areas in different States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, the number of telephone exchanges added in the remote areas of the country during the year 2003-04 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. are given in the Annexure. There are no remote areas in the jurisdiction of MTNL as it is operating in Delhi and Mumbai only.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Telephone subscribers in rural areas are already charged concessional telephone tariffs at highly subsidized rates by BSNL.

Annexure

List of Telephone Exchanges added in the remote areas of the country during the year 2003-04 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Name of Circle	No. of Exchanges added in Rural (Remote) areas
Assam	324
Andhra Pradesh	106
Bihar	37
Haryana	1
Jharkhand	13
Karnataka	7
Kerala	28
Madhya Pradesh	16
Maharashtra	31
North East-I	2
North East-II	4
Orissa	6
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	16
Tamil Nadu	7
Uttar Pradesh(East)	17
Uttar Pradesh(West)	4
Uttaranchal	9
West Bengal	12

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